

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 146520

FOLLOWING REPEAT LUBUMBASHI 0671 ACTION KINSHASA INFO SECSTATE
BRUSSELS LUSAKA PARIS RABAT 070751X

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L LUBUMBAASHI 0671

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: MILI, MOPS, CG

SUBJECT: SHABAN DEVELOPMENTS: JUNE 9,1978

1.MILITARY SITUATION: NO HOSTILITIES REPORTED. NO
FOREIGN TROOPS ARRIVED OR DEPARTED ON JUNE 8. LEGIONNAIRES
REMAIN IN KOLWEZI, MOROCCANS IN LUBUMBASHI AREA, WHERE
THEY ARE SETTING UP THEIR HEADQUARTERS, AND THE BELGIANS IN AL
MINING TOWNS BETWEEN FUNGURUME AND KIPUSHI. ONLY FOUR
US AIRFORCE C-141 ARRIVED ON JUNE 8. THEY BROUGHT TRUCKS
MEDICAL SUPPLIES AND WEAPONS FOR THE MOROCCANS AND
DEPARTED EMPTY.

2. KOLWEZI: GECMINES (GCM) TEAM FROM LUBUMBASHI VISITED
KOLWEZI ON JUNE 8, ACCOMPANIED BY CND CHIEF WHO SOUGHT
TO END OBSTRUCTIONISM OF LOCAL MILITARY AUTHORITES ON
REGULAR VISITS OF GCM PERSONNEL. GCM TEAM REPORTED THAT
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PARTIAL OPERATIONS CONTINUE WITHOUT SERIOUS PROBLEMS.

3. OTHER MINING TOWNS: MILITARY GOVERNOR SINGA
MET WITH GECAMINES REPRESENTATIVES FROM EACH OF SHABAN
MINING CENTERS ON JUNE 8 TO PROMISE UNOBSTRUCTED TRAVEL
AND COMMERCE BETWEEN ALL TOWNS FROM KAKANDA IN WEST
TO KIPUSHI IN EAST. ALTHOUGH SINGA HAD OFFERED SIMILAR

GUARANTEES AT MEETING ON MAY 26, INABILITY TO ELIMINATE
ALL BARRICADES NECESSITATED SECOND MEETING

4. IN SESSION ON THE SAME DAY WITH THE BELIGIAN COMMUNITY IN LIKASI, COLONEL DEPOORTER COMNCHIEF OF THE BELGIAN UNITS, ANNOUNCED THE BELGIAN TROOPS WOULD BE DEPARTING IN FIFTEEN DAYS. THE REACTION WAS STRONGLY AGAINST SUCH A RAPID WITHDRAWAL. THERE WERE SIMILAR PROTESTS ON SAME DAY IN KIPUSHI. DEPARTURE OF ELEMENTS OF LEGIONNAIRES HAS NOT PRODUCED STRONG CONCERN BECAUSE ALL FRENCH TROOPS WHICH HAVE DEPARTED TO DATE WERE STATIONED IN VICINITY OF LUBUMBASHI, MOSTLY AT LARGE CAMPS NEAR THE AIR PORT, AND WERE NOT INVOLVED IN ROUTINE SECURITY PATROLS. A GECAMINES OFFICIAL SPECULATED THAT COLONEL DEPOORTER MAY HAVE OFFERED THIS INFORMATION TO TEST PUBLIC REACTION. THE GENERAL ASSESSMENT IS THAT MOST OF SHABA'S EXPATRIATES AND ZAIRIAN PROFESSIONALS ARE STILL VERY NERVOUS ABOUT THE LIKELY EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PAN-AFRICAN FORCE. BORG. UNQUOTE VANCE

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